

WNBA: Who will Wings select with No. 1 pick?

SPORTS, 1B

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CPS board to look at survey results

Charles Dunlap
Columbia Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

What do students, staff and parents think of Columbia Public Schools? The board will find out the evening of Dec. 8 when it discusses school climate survey results.

Highlights from the report note that roughly two-thirds of students feel respected by teachers and there is encouragement to perform well. Most students believe they have opportunities to suc-

ceed. Bullying still is a concern for students, as is the seeming inconsistent enforcement of school policies.

Staff say communication channels about school activities generally are effective, though some improvements still could happen. While schools generally have positive learning environments, there are some issues negatively affecting student behavior. Like students, they suggest more consistent enforcement of behavioral expectations is needed.

Parents generally are satisfied with

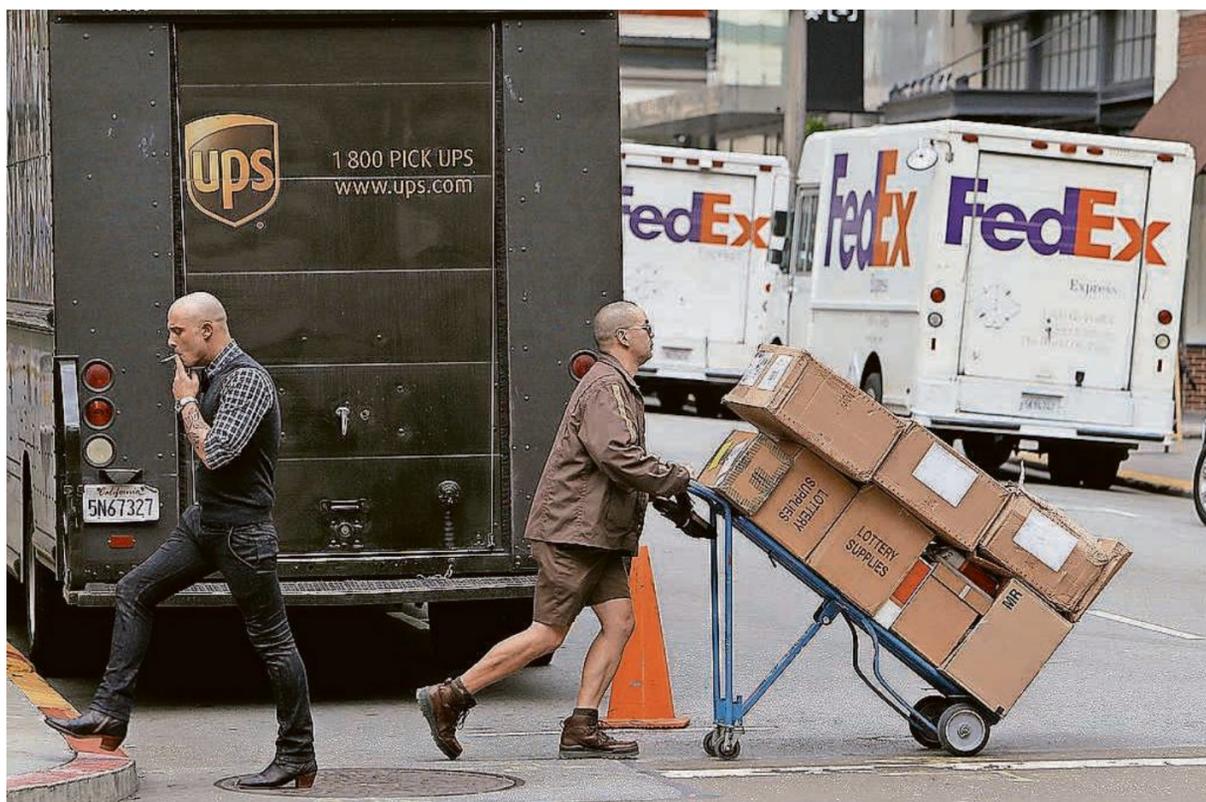
teachers and the curriculum, along with student and teacher interactions, but again there are concerns about discipline, with most parents seeing a lack of fairness in rules. While teachers say they have relatively good communication, parents do not feel the same, such as when there is a student and non-teacher interaction (administration, counselors and others). Parents are happy with work to improve school infrastructure.

Chief Academic Officer Adam Taylor will provide more insight to the board during the meeting.

The board also is expected to vote on acceptance of the financial audit report for the previous school year from KEB Accounting and Advisory. A report presentation states KEB is providing an unmodified opinion. In other words, the district has done everything it should in reporting its financial statements to the auditor.

KEB also looked at district federally funded programs and compliance with state law. KEB staff will provide more information and clarity on the presentation report during Monday's meeting.

Delivery drivers face different conditions



UPS drivers, who have been members of the Teamsters union for decades, are employees with legal protections and a collective-bargaining contract. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

MO court rewrites abortion ban ballot language

Anna Spoeerre
MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

A Missouri appeals court rewrote the language for a proposed abortion ban set to appear on the November 2026 ballot after the judges concluded Thursday, Dec. 4, the previous wording drafted by Republican Secretary of State Denny Hoskins was riddled with errors.

The judges found both the ballot language and the summary statement that will be posted at polling places "fail to sufficiently advise voters" that the proposed amendment would repeal and replace the reproductive rights amendment voters passed in November 2024 to legalize abortion.

The new ballot language certified by the Missouri Court of Appeals reads:

"Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Repeal the 2024 voter-approved Amendment providing reproductive healthcare rights, including abortion through fetal viability;
- Allow abortions for rape and incest (under twelve-weeks' gestation), emergencies, and fetal anomalies;
- Allow legislation regulating abortion;
- Ensure parental consent for minors' abortions;
- Prohibit gender transition procedures for minors?"

Western District Court of Appeals Presiding Judge W. Douglas Thomson and judges Thomas Chapman and Janet Sutton filed the opinion less than 24 hours after hearing arguments in their courtroom Dec. 3.

Hoskins' now-rejected ballot language, in-part, asked if voters wanted to: "Repeal Article I, section 36, approved in 2024; allow abortions for medical emergencies, fetal anomalies, rape, and incest."

Attorneys for Dr. Anna Fitz-James, who filed the lawsuit, picked this statement apart, scrutinizing the assumption that voters would know what "Article I, section 3 of the Constitution is, the exclusion of the 12-week gestation limit for survivors, as well as the misuse of a semi-colon, which could be interpreted to mean citizens would be newly gaining these abortion rights.

See **BALLOT**, Page 2A

Diverging business models offer insights into the future of work

Daniel Schneider
Harvard Kennedy School
and David Weil
Brandeis University and Harvard Kennedy School
THE CONVERSATION

American households have become dependent on Amazon. • The numbers say it all: In 2024, 83% of U.S. households received deliveries from Amazon, representing over 1 million packages delivered each day and 9 billion individual items delivered same-day or next-day every year. In remarkably short order, the company has transformed from an online bookseller into a juggernaut that has reshaped retailing. But its impact isn't limited to how we shop.



Using nonemployee drivers contributed to the exponential growth of Amazon as a package delivery company. In 2023, Amazon for the first time delivered more packages than UPS. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

See **DRIVERS**, Page 2A

Delivery workers at Amazon receive significantly lower wages than at UPS and FedEx, we found. Wage gaps are especially large between the delivery workers at Amazon, who earn \$19 an hour on average, and the unionized drivers at UPS, who make \$35.

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